



SR0642

LRB095 20404 GRL 47943 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, DNA technology is increasingly vital to ensuring  
3 accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system, but is  
4 not yet considered a routine tool for criminal identification  
5 by law enforcement; and

6           WHEREAS, Over 50,000 law enforcement investigations have  
7 already been aided nationwide because of DNA matches made  
8 through the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), bringing  
9 justice to victims and removing criminals from the streets; and

10           WHEREAS, The Innocence Project has used DNA in over 200  
11 cases to exonerate persons who were wrongfully convicted of  
12 crimes; and

13           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois and other states throughout  
14 the nation have significantly expanded their DNA programs to  
15 include a growing number of convicted and/or arrested felons to  
16 match against unsolved crimes; and

17           WHEREAS, The demand for DNA testing in both violent and  
18 non-violent crimes has continued to increase as the reliability  
19 of this evidence is proven; and

20           WHEREAS, Many laboratories still maintain DNA backlogs of

1 six months or longer and are unable to meet the growing demand  
2 for DNA testing despite funding commitments from state and  
3 local governments; and

4 WHEREAS, The Debbie Smith DNA backlog grant program has  
5 permitted state and local governments an opportunity to begin  
6 to maximize the full potential of forensic DNA through backlog  
7 reduction, but much work remains to be done; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we strongly urge the  
10 United States Congress to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA  
11 backlog grant program at current or increased levels; and be it  
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
14 delivered to the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the  
15 United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the  
16 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
17 the Illinois congressional delegation.